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GLORIA MOLINA APPLAUDS RULING ON SCAQMD SALES OF POLLUTION CREDITS TO VERNON POWER PLANT

SCAQMD 'Wholesaling Right to Pollute' in Southeast L.A.

LOS ANGELES (July 30, 2008)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina released the following statement today regarding yesterday's ruling by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Ann I. Jones overturning the South Coast Air Quality Management District's plan to sell pollution credits to the proposed Vernon Power Plant, and other facilities:

"I am very satisfied with this decision. Judge Jones is right to insist that the South Coast Air Quality Management District complete thorough environmental reviews before they can sell pollution credits to the proposed Vernon Power Plant, and other facilities. Southeast Los Angeles residents already endure more than their fair share of the region's pollution and suffer from some of the highest asthma rates in Los Angeles County. They deserve the full protection of the state's environmental protection laws. The SCAQMD should be protecting the health of Southeast Los Angeles residents, not wholesaling the right to pollute in these communities. This ruling is a major setback for the SCAQMD, and the Vernon Power Plant—and both the community and I are pleased."

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